



# Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Drought Help

## California

Improve Irrigation

Reduce  
Evaporation

Restore Wetlands

Restore  
Grasslands

Choose Drought  
Resistant Plants

Improve Water  
Quality

Create Buffers

Build Water  
Storage

Retain Soil  
Moisture

Restore  
Rangeland

Reduce Runoff

Reduce Wildfire  
Threat

Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of climate. It occurs almost everywhere, although its features vary from region to region. Droughts in California typically occur gradually over several years. California's extensive water supply system can mitigate the effects of short-term dry periods, however California's dependence on water for agriculture, industry, and recreation makes drought planning an economic necessity.

When a drought occurs the impacts are felt first by those most reliant on annual rainfall – farmers and ranchers. With more than 10 million acres of cropland and 30 million acres of rangeland, even a mild drought can have widespread effects. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers free technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers, as well as forest owners and communities, to help them conserve their natural resources.

### *How Can NRCS Help You?*

NRCS can help you with your water, land or crop management concerns through the development of a conservation plan. Conservation plans can include drought planning and are free. Being prepared for a drought and creating a plan will allow you to continue your operation even in the most severe conditions.



*Helping People Help the Land*

# Agriculture & Drought Resources For Conserving Water



## **Water Conservation Information Available From USDA-NRCS**

- **Contact California NRCS**  
*Find a Service Center Near You*  
<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/>
- **Information for Farmers, Ranchers and Other Agriculture Producers**  
<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/farmers.html>
- **Defending Against Drought - Prepare Your Farm or Ranch Before Drought Strikes**  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/drought/index.html>
- **Save Water with Efficient Systems and Healthy Plants**  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/watercon.html>
- **Irrigation: When and How Much? Meet Crop Requirements While Conserving Water**  
<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CA/news/Publications/conservation/irrigation.pdf>
- **Water Efficient Landscaping**  
<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CA/news/Publications/conservation/landscaping.pdf>
- **Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance**  
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/agronomy/soilmoisture/index.html>
- **en Español también**  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/espanol/pubs/calculo.pdf>

## **Water Conservation Information Available From Other Sources**

- **ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service - Water Quality, Conservation, Drought and Irrigation**  
[http://www.attra.org/water\\_quality.html](http://www.attra.org/water_quality.html)
- **California Department of Water Resources - Drought Tips - A Series of 17 Tip Sheets on Conserving Agriculture Water**  
<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/drlinks/drlinks.cfm>
- **University of California Davis - Drought Management - Crop Irrigation Strategies and Irrigation Scheduling - Crop Deficit Strategies**  
<http://ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu/index.cfm>
- **California Irrigation Management Information System CIMIS**  
[www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov)
- **University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources - Cooperative Extension**  
<http://ucanr.org>
- **University of California Center for Water Resources**  
[www.waterresources.ucr.edu](http://www.waterresources.ucr.edu)
- **University of California Cooperative Extension - Farm Water Quality Planning Program**  
<http://www.fwqp.ucanr.org/>
- **University of California at Davis California Rangelands Research and Information Center**  
<http://californiarangeland.ucdavis.edu/>

On the Web at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)

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